



# News Release

Cooperating with Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
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Date: October 12, 2011

## RAIN AND COOLER TEMPERATURES IMPROVE KENTUCKY CROP PROSPECTS

Rain and cooler temperatures during September improved October yield prospects for burley tobacco, soybeans and hay. Corn yield prospects were unchanged from September according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Tobacco cutting and housing were nearing completion, corn harvest passed the halfway mark, but soybean harvesting was just underway as of October 1. Minor adjustments were made to corn, soybean, and tobacco acreage based on administrative data not available earlier.

**Corn for grain** production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 177.9 million bushels, 4 percent below the September forecast. A smaller corn crop is expected as acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 1.28 million acres, down 60,000 acres from September. Yield was estimated at 139 bushels per acre, unchanged from the September forecast and 15 bushels above the 2010 level. **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 12.4 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the September forecast and down slightly from the 2010 production estimate. If realized, this would be the fourth largest production total on record for the United States. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields were expected to average 148.1 bushels per acre, unchanged from the September forecast but down 4.7 bushels from 2010. If realized, this would be the lowest average yield since 2005.

**Kentucky soybean** production was forecast at 57.3 million bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and 21 percent above 2010. Harvested acreage was estimated at 1.47 million acres, 30,000 acres below September but 80,000 acres above the previous year. Yield was forecast at 39 bushels per acre. If realized, yield per acre would be up two bushels from September and 5 bushels above 2010. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at 3.06 billion bushels, down 1 percent from September and down 8 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields were expected to average 41.5 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month and down 2 bushels from last year. If realized, the average yield would be the second lowest since 2003.

**Burley** production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 128 million pounds, up 7 percent from the September forecast but down 9 percent from last year. Yield per acre was estimated at 2,000 pounds, up 100 pounds from September and 50 pounds above 2010. Harvested acreage was estimated at 64,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from the previous forecast but down 8,000 acres from the previous year. Rain during September has improved the curing process. Production for the **Burley Producing States** totaled 173 million pounds, up 2 percent from the previous month.

**Kentucky dark fire-cured tobacco** production was forecast at 30.9 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year earlier. **Dark air-cured tobacco** production was forecast at 12.8 million pounds, a 4 percent increase from the 2010 crop.

**All hay** production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 5.84 million tons, up 4 percent from the August forecast and 2 percent above last year's output. **Alfalfa hay** production was forecast at 800,000 tons, up 3 percent from August. Yield was forecast at 3.2 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from August and 0.4 ton above 2010. **Other hay** production was forecast at 5.04 million tons, up 4 percent from August and slightly below the previous year. Yield was estimated at 2.4 tons per acre, also up 0.1 ton from August and up 0.2 ton from a year ago.

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